

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 310110
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 310110

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 13014 ACTION DAR ES SALAAM INFO STATE DEC 30.

QUOTE S E C R E T SECTO 13014

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS NSC

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESPONSE TO NYERERE'S LETTER ON RHODESIA

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESPONSE TO
NYERERE'S LETTER ON RHODESIA WHICH SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO
NYERERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGIN TEXT DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 13, WHICH REACHED ME A FEW DAYS
AGO, ADDED TO THE WARMTH OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. BECAUSE
THE IDENTITY OF OUR VIEWS ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION IS SO
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MARKED, I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT 1978 WILL SEE THE CREATION OF
AN INDEPENDENT, MAJORITY-RULED ZIMBABWE.

I AGREE THAT WE MUST MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY AND FOR THIS
REASON I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DR. OWEN'S INVITATION
TO MR. MKOMO AND MR. MUGABE TO JOIN HIM IN SERIOUS NEGOTIA-
TIONS. AS YOU POINT OUT, THE ROLES OF THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES

DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD REMAIN TO BE DEFINED.
THIS IS THE KIND OF THING WE EXPECT REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO DISCUSS IN LONDON OR WHEREVER
THE MEETING IS HELD. TALKS WITH THEM WILL DEMONSTRATE
THAT OUR SETTLEMENT EFFORT, AIDED BY YOUR SUPPORT AND
ASSISTANCE, CONTINUES TO PROCEED.

FOR THIS MEETING TO SUCCEED, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD
AVOID ANY PRECIPITATE MOVES IN THE UN OF ELSEWHERE
WHICH COULD COMPLICATE OR DIVERT ATTENTION FROM OUR
EFFORTS. I HOPE THAT YOU AND OUR OTHER AFRICAN FRIENDS
AGREE AND WILL COLLABORATE WITH ANDY YOUNG TO THIS END.

THE BRITISH WHITE PAPER OF SEPTEMBER 1 SETS FORTH
A REASONABLE, LOGICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO
TRANSFORM RHODESIA FROM MINORITY TO MAJORITY RULE.
IT REQUIRES MR. SMITH TO RELINQUISH POWER. IT NEU-
TRALIZES RHODESIA'S ARMED FORCES, AND CREATES A NEW
ZIMBABWEAN ARMY WHICH, AS WE AGREED, WILL BE BASED ON
THE LIBERATION FORCES. WE ARE DETERMINED TO TAKE ALL
APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROPOSALS.
SETTLEMENT ATTEMPTS WHICH IGNORE IDEAS LIKE THESE DO
NOT MERIT OUR SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT PROVIDE FOR
LASTING PEACE. FOR THIS REASON, I SHARE YOUR CONCERNS
ABOUT THE RECENT INITIATIVES OF MR. SMITH. IN THIS
CONNECTION, I AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR
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REVEREND SITHOLE AND BISHOP MUZOREWA TO SEE THAT OUR
EFFORTS CAN BEAR FRUIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

YOUR LETTER REMINDS ME OF HOW SIMILAR OUR GOALS FOR
ZIMBABWE ARE. WE, LIKE YOU, DO NOT WISH TO IMPOSE A
PARTICULAR ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL SYSTEM ON ZIMBABWE
OR TO CHOOSE ITS LEADERS. RATHER, WE WISH TO END A
SITUATION WHICH OFFENDS THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD.
WE WANT TO GIVE ITS PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT
THEIR LEADERS IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE FROM FEAR. IT
IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT BE PERCEIVED BY
THEM AND BY THE WORLD AS DULY CONSTITUTED AND
DESERVING OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC SUPPORT.

THE COMING YEAR WILL BE A MOMENTOUS ONE FOR SOUTH-
ERN AFRICA AND I APPRECIATE YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND ADVICE
IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES THAT WILL ARISE.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON.

WARMEST REGARDS, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT

VANCE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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